

January 2, 2024

The City Council of Scott City met in regular session on the above date at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall.

Pastor Steve Payne from the First Christian Church was present to lead the Council and others present in prayer.

City Clerk Ruth Becker administered the Oath of Office to Council members Craig Richards, Jeff Allen, and Barb Wilkinson. Bo Parkinson, who was also re-elected, was unable to attend this Council meeting. Mrs. Becker will administer his oath at the next regular meeting.

Present were Mayor Everett Green, Council members Craig Richards, Jeff Allen, Kelly Funk, Josh Gooden, Barb Wilkinson, Adam Winter, Armando Tarango, City Attorney James Dummermuth (by Zoom), City Administrator Brad Pendergast, and City Clerk Ruth Becker.

The Council and others recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The minutes of the December 18, 2023, regular council meeting were presented.

Motion by Barb Wilkinson seconded by Adam Winter to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2023, regular council meeting. Vote – Unam.

Appropriation Ordinance # 1012A was presented.

Motion by Jeff Allen seconded by Adam Winter to approve Appropriation Ordinance # 1012A. Vote – Unam.

*Resolution #2024-01*, a resolution setting out finding and determination of the governing body requesting a waiver of the generally accepted accounting principles for the Fiscal Year ending 2024, was presented.

Motion by Josh Gooden seconded by Adam Winter to approve *Resolution #2024-01*. Vote – Unam.

A pinning ceremony honoring newly hired Police Chief Colton Schmitt was announced by Mayor Everett Green. Police Chief Schmitt's wife, Lindsay, presented him with his eagle pins and his Police Chief's badge. City Clerk Ruth Becker administered the Oath of Office to Police Chief Schmitt. Several family members, co-workers, and friends attended Police Chief Schmitt's ceremony, including former Police Chief David Post who announced that the Police Department is in good hands. Mayor Everett Green thanked David Post for his four years of service to the Scott City Police Department. Mayor Green and Council members applauded both outgoing Police Chief David Post and incoming Police Chief Colton Schmitt.

Scott County Fire Chief Jeff Mayer was present for his annual update to the City Council, during which he informed the Council that the cascade air system that was approved at the October 2, 2023, Council meeting was no longer available as the company has gone out of business. Provided in the packet was *Quote Number 43888* for \$70,019.45 from Emergency Fire Equipment for a similar system, an excerpt of the October 2, 2023, meeting minutes, and a report demonstrating

the current fund balance and amount budgeted for the Fire Equipment fund for 2024. City Clerk Ruth Becker explained that the maximum amount that could be approved toward the expenditure was \$61,914.00 because, even though the fund balance is slightly higher at \$61,933.85, that was the amount that was budgeted for 2024. She explained that when the 2024 budget was set, City officials were not expecting that delinquent tax dollars would still trickle in. Fire Chief Jeff Mayer confirmed that Scott County has agreed to pay the \$8,105.45 balance due on the quote if the Council approved funding from the remaining balance available in the Fire Equipment fund.

Motion by Kelly Funk seconded by Armando Tarango to pay \$61,914.00 toward a new air tank filling system from Emergency Fire Equipment, with Scott County paying the remaining balance of \$8,105.45. Vote – 6, yes – 1, abstain, Jeff Allen.

Fire Chief Jeff Mayer indicated that the new air tank filling system would require a 3-phase electrical connection to be installed in the fire station. Consensus of the Council was to allow Scott County to install a 3-phase electrical connection in the fire station at their expense.

Scott City Housing Authority Property Manager Ardith Scammehorn was in attendance to provide her quarterly report to the City Council. Mrs. Scammehorn indicated that Pine Village recently had three vacancies, one of which was filled earlier in the day, one that will be filled on January 11<sup>th</sup>, and one that will be filled once the carpet has been replaced. She noted that one of their commercial, coin-operated clothes dryers is near the end of its life, but she will wait until it has completely stopped working before replacing it, noting that she will purchase the new dryer from a local business. Mrs. Scammehorn informed the Council that the 2024 budget that had been turned in late was not penalized with a February 1, 2024, date, but rather the budget was accepted with a January 1, 2024, date with a \$10/month rent increase but no increase in the utility budget allowance. Mayor Green thanked Mrs. Scammehorn for her report.

Provided in the packet was *Plan Summary – LegalShield*. City Clerk Ruth Becker explained that Larry Farenbruch, the representative who currently oversees the optional medical transportation benefit for City employees (MASA), as well as the IDShield plan that was approved at the December 19, 2022, Council meeting, is seeking Council approval to offer this additional optional benefit to City employees. Mrs. Becker highlighted some of the services provided to those who enroll in LegalShield, including legal advice, estate planning, document review, and uncontested family law services. She also addressed an optional supplement to the *LegalShield* plan for gun owners who might find themselves involved in a gun-related incident, which includes services such as emergency consultation and trial defense. Mrs. Becker noted that the cost of participation rests solely on the employees who choose to enroll; there is no cost to the City. If approved by Council, Mr. Farenbruch will present this program to employees on January 10, 2024, as part of the upcoming Open Enrollment/Benefits Fair that will take place at City Hall and at the Law Enforcement Center.

Motion by Jeff Allen seconded by Adam Winter to approve the addition of the *LegalShield* program to the list of benefits offered to employees of the City of Scott City. Vote – Unam.

Included in the packet was *Minimum Housing Code (Revised 7/1/18)*, a sample document provided by League of Kansas Municipalities. City Administrator Brad Pendergast noted that this document is being used as a starting point for discussions regarding a future minimum housing standards ordinance, but that, due to its age, it will likely need to be updated to reflect a recent urban renewal law. Mr. Pendergast informed the Council that he has consulted City Attorney

Jennifer Cunningham who agrees that set minimum housing standards need to be in place to have an avenue for enforcement. The document included in the packet addresses two components – blight and minimum housing standards – that would apply to properties that are either owned or rented by their residents. Mr. Pendergast indicated that concerns in either of these two areas would be addressed on a complaint basis, and that the City Building Inspector would be involved assessing any non-compliance with City codes. When asked what he thinks about the standards set by the document, Building Inspector Jerek Wasinger stated that it is a good resource that is written in layman’s terms, and indicated that it is easily read and understood. Scott County Development Committee Executive Director Katie Eisenhour was in attendance and noted that she and her committee also approve of the document from an economic development standpoint. After a brief discussion, consensus of the Council was to instruct City Attorney Jennifer Cunningham to draft an ordinance based on the provided document for future Council review and approval.

Included in the packet was *Application for Occupancy on the Right of Way of Township Highways*, a document requesting permissions from S&T Telephone Company to install high-speed internet lines within City right of ways.

Motion by Jeff Allen seconded by Armando Tarango to allow S&T Telephone Company access to the City’s right of ways to install high-speed internet lines. Vote – Unam.

Due to the late receipt of documents of great importance, lending to the discussion regarding the Water System Improvements-2023 project and the awarding of bids for the project, Mayor Green expressed a need to table this discussion until a future meeting. Documents that were sent late in the afternoon were entitled *City of Scott City Water System Improvements Macro Level Budget Analysis, Tuesday, January 2, 2024* and *Today’s Composite Elevated Storage Tanks*.

Included in the packet was *Exhibit E – Request for Disbursement (#9) for KDHE Revolving Loan Programs for KPWSLF Project #2982*. The disbursement request of \$19,099.84 will be used to cover GMS, Inc. invoice #29 for professional services from October 28, 2023, to November 24, 2023.

Motion by Craig Richards seconded by Barb Wilkinson to approve *Request for Disbursement #9* from KDHE in the amount of \$19,099.84 for services provided by GMS, Inc. Vote – Unam.

There was nothing to report under the open agenda.

Two applications were presented for Pool management for the 2024 Pool season. Council member Barb Wilkinson recommended that pool managers be hired as part-time staff instead of as seasonal staff and that those two positions be placed on the City’s Pay Plan Step & Grade Matrix. After brief discussion, it was decided that discussion on this matter would be discussed at a future meeting.

Motion by Adam Winter seconded by Josh Gooden to hire Marci Patton as Pool Manager and Jessica Berry as Assistant Pool Manager for the 2024 Pool season. Vote – Unam.

Building Inspector Jerek Wasinger had nothing to report but noted that he has several inspections scheduled and will be following up on several open permits.

Police Chief Colton Schmitt requested to advertise for a new patrol vehicle, either a truck or an SUV, with a police package. He noted that the expenditure has been budgeted for in the 2024 budget.

Motion by Armando Tarango seconded by Jeff Allen to allow Police Chief Colton Schmitt to advertise for bids for a new patrol vehicle with a police package, with bids due back to City Hall by 5:00 p.m. on February 1, 2024. Vote – Unam.

Police Chief Schmitt reported that he will begin his 3rd and final session of his FBI Leadership Training in Colorado on January 22, 2024.

Diversion funds available from the Scott County Attorney will be used to purchase tire deflation systems.

Officer Bailey Davidson's School Resource Officer (SRO) vehicle is scheduled to be equipped the second week of January. Officer Whitney Savolt's vehicle has been on the schedule at BK Auto for body work for approximately 6 months. Police Chief Schmitt announced that he is planning to approach Skeeters in Garden City for another quote. Council member Armando Tarango recommended reaching out to local business R Brothers to see if they could also provide a quote.

Park Superintendent Terence Appel had nothing to report.

Street, Water, and Sewer Superintendent Terence Appel announced that Christmas lights are coming down.

Mr. Appel reported that he will send two of his crew members to Liberal on January 11, 2024, to attend a wastewater sampling class.

Superintendent Appel updated the Council on the anticipated completion of the K96 KDOT project, indicating that crews still have about 24 feet of concrete left to pour and that it looks like bad weather will prevent this from being done in the next couple of weeks. He had recommended to the KDOT crews that they first finish the area near the hotel and restaurant so that an additional intersection could be reopened, but that his suggestion may not be in their plans.

The Komatsu loader that was reported to have major issues was determined to not be as serious as previously expected, as a seal is the only thing that needs to be replaced.

City Clerk Ruth Becker reminded Council members and other present that Kansas Representative Tracey Mann's *Listening Tour* would be held on Thursday, January 4, 2024, from 4:15 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Spencer Flight Center. All were encouraged to attend.

Mrs. Becker also informed the Council that the *2024 Open Enrollment & Benefits Fair* for City employees is scheduled for Wednesday, January 10, 2024. This benefit fair is scheduled throughout the day at both City Hall and the Law Enforcement Center so that employees can listen to and meet with representatives from Globe Life/Liberty National, MASA, LegalShield, IDShield, Blue Cross & Blue Shield, Vision Care Direct, KPERS/KP&F, KPERS 457, Aflac, and WageWorks to discuss benefit opportunities. All present were invited to attend.

City Administrator Brad Pendergast reported that, with the recent implementation of the new water rates, issues were found with sewer rates which will now need to be re-addressed, as well. He will begin working on a new sewer rate ordinance to address these issues.

Mr. Pendergast informed the Council that he recently visited with Senator Jerry Moran, who made a preemptive stop in City Hall the week prior. He noted that Senator Moran expressed that he always enjoys his stops in Scott City.

City Attorney James Dummermuth had nothing to report.

Motion by Jeff Allen seconded by Adam Winter that the City Council recess into executive session to discuss personnel issues pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception, K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), retaining the Mayor, Council, City Administrator, City Attorney, Police Chief, and City Clerk, with the open meeting resuming in the Council room at 7:17 p.m. Vote – Unam.

The Council came out of executive session.  
Mayor Green called the meeting back to order.  
No action was taken.

Mayor Green reported that he had received a great deal of encouragement and support from Council members and City staff during his recent absence. He wanted everyone to know how much it was appreciated.

The Council took a short break.  
Mayor Green called the meeting back to order.

Motion by Adam Winter seconded by Armando Tarango to adjourn at 7:24 p.m. Vote – Unam.

Everett M. Green  
Mayor

Ruth Becker  
City Clerk